

Washington, DC –Congresswoman Betty McCollum (MN-04), Minnesota’s Representative on the House Appropriations committee, today expressed support for the billions in education funding proposed in the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act*, which the U.S. House will consider in the coming weeks.

“Investing in education is critical to securing our nation’s economic future. Our schools have not been spared by the economic crisis, and in the face of state deficits and budget cuts, it is vital we provide resources at the federal level. I am pleased that the stimulus bill the House and President-elect Barack Obama’s economic team has outlined includes support for our students and relief for schools,” Congresswoman McCollum said.

A major component of the economic stimulus package is to support education programs that prepare students to learn in 21st century classrooms, labs, and libraries and compete with any worker in the world. The package will help states restore cuts in education and enables local and state school officials keep teachers in Minnesota classrooms.

The proposed legislation provides:

- \$41 billion to local school districts through Title I (\$13 billion), IDEA (\$13 billion), a new School Modernization and Repair Program (\$14 billion), and the Education Technology program (\$1 billion).

- \$79 billion in state fiscal relief to prevent cutbacks to key services, including \$39 billion to local school districts and public colleges and universities distributed through existing state and federal formulas, \$15 billion to states as bonus grants as a reward for meeting key performance measures, and \$25 billion to states for other high priority needs such as public safety and other critical services, which may include education.
- \$15.6 billion to increase the maximum Pell Grant by \$500 (from \$4,850 to \$5,350).
- \$6 billion for higher education modernization.

To review the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act*, go to:

Text of Legislation: <http://appropriations.house.gov/pdf/RecoveryBill01-15-09.pdf>

Report on Legislation: <http://appropriations.house.gov/pdf/RecoveryReport01-15-09.pdf>

Congresswoman Betty McCollum (MN-4) serves on the House Appropriations Committee.

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